

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN***

**Meeting Location:** Kotzebue, Alaska, Alaska Technical Center

**Meeting Date:** March 31, 2004

**Purpose:** Identify public issues and concerns with BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area.

**Number of public in attendance:** 7

**BLM personnel in attendance:** Jeanie Cole, Shelly Jacobson, Dave Parker, and Randy Meyers

**Meeting format:** Through a PowerPoint presentation, attendees were introduced to what an RMP does and why BLM is doing a new one. They were also given examples of decisions that might come out of an RMP. They had the opportunity to review maps of land status, State-identified RS2477 routes, reindeer grazing allotments, anadromous streams, Seward 1008 PLO locations (mineral entry), guide use areas, and game management units in the Planning Area. Participants were asked to express their concerns and issues with BLM-managed public lands. These are documented below. An Interested Party letter explaining the types of decisions made in the RMP and giving an overview of the initial steps in planning was distributed. In addition, a small-scale map of the planning area, a copy of the planning website home page, and copy of the PowerPoint presentation were available for attendees to take. A scoping comment sheet that can either be filled out at the meeting or returned to BLM at a later date was also made available to attendees.

### **Issues/Questions/Concerns:**

1. Other uses are affecting subsistence and caribou migration routes, and people in Noorvik and Kiana are not seeing as many caribou as they should. People are happy to hear that BLM will attempt to address the user conflict issue especially in the Squirrel River. Caribou come through the Squirrel River when sport hunters are there; this shifts migration further east. Noorvik, Kiana, Kotzebue have to go further to find caribou.
2. Sport hunting in the Squirrel River: BLM should: Limit # of transporters/guides and/or # of clients per guide. NANA Purcell Security counted 75 tents (not camps) in one day in the Squirrel River.
3. Follow the lead of National Park Service (NPS) regarding commercial services. NPS Draft Commercial Services Plan for Northwest Parks will be out soon. When NPS begins limiting commercial uses in the parks and preserves, this will put additional pressure on BLM lands. NPS working on EA for new commercial

- services plan. NPS Public scoping meetings—concerns primarily about transporters, not so much guides because they can only bring in a limited number of hunters.
4. The Buckland/Selawik area is starting to see a higher number of sport hunters especially in the past year.
  5. Concerns with global warming: the caribou are migrating south later and later. How does BLM sample air, water, and soil quality. Will BLM be doing climate research or impacts?
  6. NANA region has traditionally been against land disposal. They fear sale of property to private individuals that might develop lodges which would bring in clients who would compete with subsistence users.
  7. How is BLM going to address the inherent conflict between subsistence resources and mineral development?
  8. BLM needs to address the blue tarp trespass in the Squirrel River and get it cleaned up.
  9. Would like to see BLM identify cultural and paleontological resources on BLM lands.
  10. How is BLM going to incorporate traditional knowledge into the plan?
  11. Concerned that a 20-year lifespan of a plan will not be able to forecast or adequately address impacts of future roads, pipelines, etc. Plan needs to consider impacts of regional access. Proposed state roads are concern; is not in favor of increased road access.
  12. ATV use in the Squirrel River is tearing up the vegetation.
  13. Sport hunters & guides are leaving trash behind in the Squirrel River.
  14. Should consider closing the Squirrel River to ATVs. Local people don't use them much for hunting in that area. Concerns with ATVs include: tearing up the country, bringing more people, trash left behind, and pollution
  15. The Squirrel River contains important spawning habitat for salmon. It needs to be protected. Salmon spawn early there.
  16. Should make the plan broad enough to be responsive to future changes.
  17. Question on coalbed methane research by BLM. Is BLM going to go to the people (Selawik) and ask their thoughts on energy leasing and development of energy minerals?
  18. BLM should make the Squirrel River a special management area so they can better manage recreational use.
  19. BLM should integrate planning and management with other agencies and governments.
  20. Need to include pollution prevention in the plan. From all pollutant sources including garbage, toxic waste, and ATV emissions, etc.
  21. Need to identify important mineral licks for animals and manage them for the benefit of all the animals.
  22. Why isn't there one plan for the entire NW area (not just BLM lands)? The resources, issues and conflicts cut across jurisdictions.
  23. TEPA – Tribal Environmental Policy Act. TEPA will be done soon on NANA lands. BLM should honor this effort—in very initial development stage, Maniilaq is collaborating with member villages.

24. Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC): What types of areas will BLM consider for ACECs? Can a Hazmat site be considered for an ACEC? The entire earth should be considered an ACEC.
25. One person mentioned that they would not support any wild and scenic river designations.
26. Future development of roads is of concern, especially its effects on wildlife and subsistence.
27. No commercial logging should be allowed. Firewood harvest would be okay.
28. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has subsistence maps and harvest studies. BLM should get this data.
29. The most important issue to address in the plan is user conflict over access to game resources. There is a continuing increase in the number of sport hunters, guides, and transporters in the region.